

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00143 241155Z

47

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01

/179 W

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R 241055Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7612

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

REF: KHARTOUM 0133 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: COMMENTS ACTING FONMIN AND NUMBER PARALLEL SIGNS
KHARTOUM POINT TO CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE TIES.
WHILE CAIRO NO DOUBT SEES KHARTOUM'S SUPPORT PRIMARILY IN TERMS
ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE, SUDANESE APPEAR HOPE FOR EGYPTIAN TECHNICAL
HELP DEVELOPING THIS COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL, SAUDI
OIL MONEY COULD BE CATALYST. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR SAW ACTING FONMIN MUSA JANUARY 23 TO BRIEF HIM
ON TALKING POINTS STATE 011547 RE EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT. MUSA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID THAT SPECIAL
EGYPTIAN ENVOY ZAYYAT HAD TAKEN ALMOST IDENTICAL LINE WITH
PRESIDENT NIMEIRI JAN 20 IN DESCRIBING AGREEMENT (REFTEL).
ZAYATT HAD DENIED THERE WERE "SECRET AGREEMENTS" BUT HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00143 241155Z

REFERRED TO SOME "UNDERSTANDINGS", EXPLAINING TO NIMEIRI THAT

IF "ONLY FAIR" FOR EGYPT THIN OUT ITS FORCES EAST OF CANAL IN RETURN FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO PASSES. MUSA COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR THAT, HAD ISRAEL UNDERTAKEN SUCH WITHDRAWAL IN OCTOBER, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE RECEIVED CREDIT, WHEREAS NOW THIS CREDIT WENT TO USG.

2. INDICATING EGYPTIAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS MORE CORDIAL THAN FOR SEVERAL YEARS, MUSA SAID ZAYYAT HAD EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION GOS SUPPORT DURING OCTOBER WAR. IT HAD BEEN DECIDED SUDANESE CHIEF OF STAFF LTGEN BASHIR MOHAMED ALI WOULD SHORTLY VISIT EGYPT IN ORDER EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS SUDANESE MILITARY TO EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES (GEN. ALI SCHEDULED LEAVE JAN. 24). MOREOVER, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI IS NOW SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PAYING OFFICIAL VISIT EGYPT. MUSA CLAIMED SADAT HAS BEEN PRESSING THIS INVITATION FOR ALMOST YEAR BUT NOTED NIMEIRI HAD REMAINED WARY, EVEN FLYING TO ALGIERS VIA NORTHERN NIGERIA TO AVOID OVERFLYING EGYPT OR LIBYA. NOW NIMEIRI WANTS DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH SADAT IN HIS RESPONSIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES.

3. ON MORE CONCRETE MATTERS, IT NOW APPEARS FONMIN'S RECENT PUBLIC REFERENCE "LONG PENDING IRRIGATION AND WATER STORAGE PROJECTS (BETWEEN SUDAN AND EGYPT) NOT SO FAR EXECUTED" (KHARTOUM 0074) REFERRED PRIMARILY LONG-PENDING JONGLEI CANAL SCHEME TO DRAIN SUDD SWAMPS BETWEEN MALAKAL AND JUBA. JOINT SUDANESE/EGYPTIAN NILE WATERS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECENTLY MET HERE AND ACCORDING JANUARY 23 PRESS, HAS SUBMITTED TO IRRIGATION MINISTERS BOTH COUNTRIES REPORT ON RESULTS TECHNICAL STUDIES WHICH WERE CARRIED OUT RE IMPLEMENTATION FIRST PHASE JONGLEI PROJECT. JOINT SUDANESE/EGYPTIAN EXPEDITION REPORTEDLY CURRENTLY DOING FIELD WORK IN JONGLEI AREA IN ORDER DETERMINE BEST TYPE DIGGING MACHINERY TO USE IN EXECUTING CANAL PROJECT. MUSA CONFIRMED FONMIN HAD IN MIND JONGLEI IN HIS REMARKS SCHEME AND SAID ITS COMPLETION WOULD DRAIN SOME TWO MILLION ACRES EXCELLENT FARM LAND WHICH COULD THEN BE USED SUPPORT AGRICULTURAL NEEDS NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENTING ON ABORTIVE TUNISIAN/LIBYAN "MERGER", MUSA SAID EGYPTIANS NOW SPEAKING OF ARAB UNION IN SAME TERMS AS SUDANESE

VOICED TWO YEARS AGO AT TIME GOS REFUSAL JOIN STILLBORN LIBYAN/
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 00143 241155Z

EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN AMALGAM. THAT IS, CAIRO NOW AGREED WITH KHARTOUM THAT ANY ARAB FEDERATION WOULD TAKE SOME YEARS AT LEAST AND SHOULD BE BASED ON PRIOR CONCRETE COOPERATION IN SPECIFIC AREAS. MUSA OPINED TUNISIAN/LIBYAN FIASCO WOULD SOON BE USED BY EGYPTIAN AS EXCUSE SHELVE DEFINITELY PLANS FOR EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN MERGER, INDICATING THIS WOULD DELIGHT SUDANESE, WHOSE RELATIONS WITH LIBYANS AT ALL-TIME LOW.

5. COMMENT: WITH EGYPTIANS AND SUDANESE CURRENTLY BOTH LOOKING FOR SUPPORT ABROAD, AND CAIRO HAVING AVOIDED INVOLVEMENT IN SENSITIVE ISSUE SUDANESE ANTI-REGIME EXILES (NOW REPORTEDLY COALESCING ON LIBYA), IT NOT SURPRISING THAT CONSIDERABLE WARMTH NOW SURROUNDS CAIRO/KHARTOUM TIES. IT WOULD APPEAR, MOREOVER, THAT GOS MAY HOPE TURN SITUATION TO CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL ADVANTAGE BY CHIVVYING EGYPTIANS ON LONG-PENDING JONGLEI SCHEME IN HOPES THIS COULD BE ANOTHER PROJECT ACCOMPLISHED WITH ARAB OIL PRODUCERS' MONEY.
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